

Safe Pipelines

Know what's below

A Publication of the Pipeline Safety Trust

Fall 2014

Natural Gas Emissions – A New Pipeline Safety Issue

It has been well known for years that many of our natural gas pipelines, especially the older distribution systems, are full of small leaks. From a “safety” standpoint most of these leaks were classified as non-hazardous because there was very little chance they could reach the right levels to ignite or explode. Some of these leaks get addressed as utilities replace their older cast iron and bare steel pipes, but many of those replacement programs are scheduled to go on for years and

years. So year after year, since these pipelines were “safe,” we allowed them to continue to leak tons and tons of methane into the atmosphere. In fact, in 2012, the EPA reported that methane leaks from pipelines in the natural gas distribution sector accounted for more than 13 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions.

Also over the past

decade new regulations were passed that required natural gas transmission pipeline companies to test and repair their pipelines in ways which often meant venting additional tons and tons of gas into the atmosphere.

Add to all that all the new drilling for gas going on throughout the country (see map), with all of the leaks that happen from the wells till the gas gets into a transmission pipeline and it has become apparent that we are allowing a lot of valuable methane to escape into the atmosphere. In 2012, the EPA reported that the total methane emissions nationwide from wells to consumers from natural gas systems were 129.9 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions. In addition to the emissions the LA Times and Wall Street Journal reported this year that in North Dakota alone somewhere between \$50-\$100 million worth of natural gas is burned off (flared) each month because of a lack of storage and pipeline capacity to capture it. Seems like the production frenzy needs to slow down until the infrastructure is in place to capture this valuable non-renewable resource.

In the past decade awareness has also been growing about the potential disastrous effects of climate change. While most of that discussion has centered on ways to reduce carbon dioxide, turns out that the methane molecules leaking from our pipeline systems trap 84 times more heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide, so those emissions have now become a focus of a good deal of research and discussion.

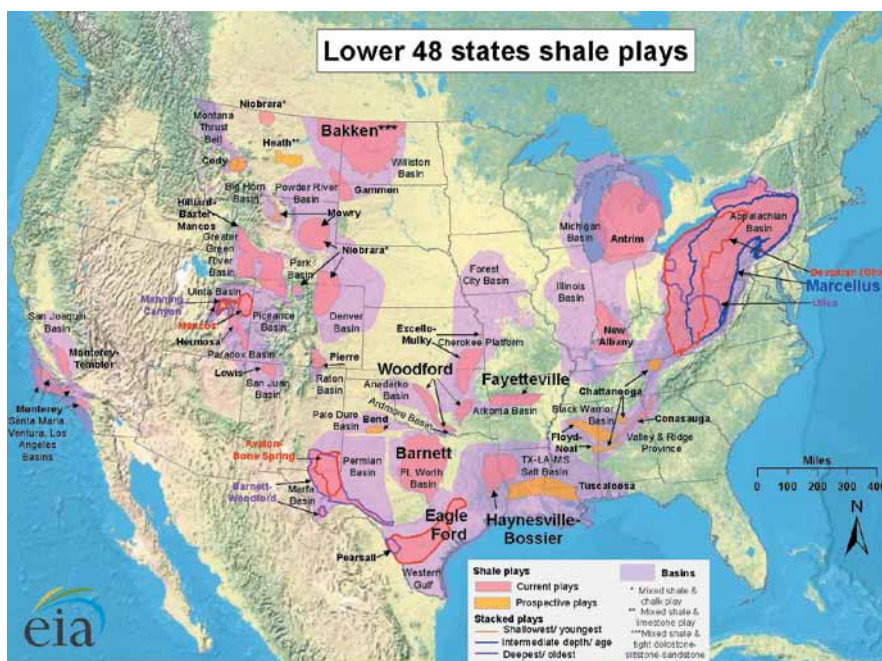
Over the past summer the Pipeline Safety Trust took part in a number of roundtable discussions on methane emissions from pipelines organized by the Department of Energy as part of President Obama’s Climate Action Plan. Also in July the EPA’s Inspector General issued the report **Improvements Needed in EPA Efforts to Address Methane Emissions From Natural Gas Distribution Pipelines** (<http://www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2014/20140725-14-P-0324.pdf>) which added even more fuel to the fire that this problem needs to be better addressed, particularly as more and more natural gas is being produced and shipped throughout the country. That report recommended “specifically, as part of the interagency methane strategy, the EPA should work with the Department of Transportation’s PHMSA to address methane leaks from a safety and environmental standpoint.” PHMSA has stated that this coordination is in progress, but exactly how they will address these issues, under their current authority and regulations, is unclear at this point.

Leak Maps

Want to see some maps that indicate how many leaks there are in a few gas distribution systems?

Check out the maps the Environmental Defense Fund has posted at:

www.edf.org/climate/methanemaps



In This Issue:

Page 1 – Natural Gas Emissions - A New Pipeline Safety Issue

Page 2 – Quarterman Resigns Administrator Post

Page 2 – Leaders In Pipeline Safety Transparency

Page 3 – 2014 Transparency of State Pipeline Websites

Page 4 – The Smart Pig

Page 5 – PHMSA Technical Assistance Grant Awards

Page 6 – PHMSA Voices Concerns

Page 6 – Changes Proposed to the National Pipeline Mapping System

Page 8 – The Trust in the News

Back page – Trust Releases Local Government Guide to Pipelines

Mission of the Trust

The Pipeline Safety Trust promotes pipeline safety through education and advocacy, increased access to information, and partnerships with residents, safety advocates, government, and industry, resulting in safer communities and a healthier environment.

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Quarterman Resigns Administrator Post

Cynthia Quarterman has resigned her post as Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, effective October 4, having served the agency for nearly five years. During Ms. Quarterman's tenure Congress mandated numerous improvements to pipeline safety regulations without providing necessary additional resources, and oil-by-rail deliveries more than doubled. PHMSA also faced criticism for not ensuring that states adequately enforce safety rules on pipelines, resulting in “undetected safety weaknesses” according to the Department of Transportation's Inspector General report. The post requires Senate confirmation, and is not expected to be filled in the near future. Quarterman has since joined the Atlantic Council, a Washington, DC-area think tank. Timothy Butters is now the Acting Administrator, having previously served as PHMSA's Deputy Administrator. ■



Cynthia Quarterman

Leaders in Pipeline Safety Transparency



Again this year Arkansas and Washington got the top honors in our state website transparency review. Pictured here are Bobby Henry (Chief of Pipeline Safety, Arkansas Public Service Commission), Carl Weimer (Exec. Director of the Pipeline Safety Trust), Colette Honorable (President of the Arkansas Public Service Commission and recently nominated by President Obama to serve on FERC), Philip Jones (Commissioner, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission) and David Lykken (Director of Pipeline Safety, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission) ■

Thanks! We would like to thank Pacific Gas and Electric Company and Marathon Pipe Line LLC for their recent generous donations to our Citizen Travel Fund. These donations provide money to cover the costs of travel so more citizens can participate in our annual conference and other important pipeline safety meetings. We believe that greater citizen involvement in pipeline safety leads to better outcomes and builds trust in our pipeline system. Thanks again to these companies for supporting citizen involvement.

If you would like to help support greater citizen participation visit our website at: <http://pstrust.org/travel-assistance-donations> ■



2014 Transparency Review of State Pipeline Websites

Our new transparency review is complete! For the fourth year in a row, the Trust has reviewed state pipeline safety program websites based on scoring criteria that rank how well states provide transparent information to the public about pipeline safety issues. Nearly all state governments regulate some aspect of pipelines within their state. This project assesses whether an interested citizen can easily find information about what and how pipelines are regulated in the state. More information, including instructions for the review and past assessments are located on our website under "[Transparency of Pipeline Information](#)."

This year, kudos go out to the **Maine Public Utilities Commission**, which rose from a low score of 5 last year, to a score of 25 this year, making them tops in the 'most improved' category! Kudos also go out to the **Arkansas Public Service Commission**, and **Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission**, who maintain their overall lead positions with model websites providing a great deal of useful information to their respective publics.

	Finding agency web site	Contacts for agency staff	Access to statutes, regulations	Describe what state regulates	Transmission pipeline maps	Pipeline company contact info	Incident data	Enforcement data	Excavation damage data	Inspection records	Siting & routing info	Total (out of a possible 33 points)
Arkansas	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	33
Washington	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	32
PHMSA	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	1	1	28
Maine	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	0	1	2	25
Connecticut	3	3	3	3	3	1	2	2	3	1	0	24
Minnesota	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	2	24
South Dakota	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	0	1	0	23
Colorado	3	3	2	3	3	3	1	2	1	0	0	21
Texas	3	1	3	2	3	1	2	2	2	0	0	19
Mississippi	3	3	1	2	3	2	2	2	0	0	0	18
South Carolina	3	3	1	2	3	1	2	2	0	1	0	18
West Virginia	3	3	2	1	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	17
Indiana	3	3	3	1	0	3	0	1	1	1	1	17
Arizona	3	2	3	3	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	17
Nebraska	3	2	1	2	3	2	0	3	0	1	0	17
New Hampshire	3	3	3	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	16
Kentucky	3	2	3	2	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	16
Wisconsin	3	3	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	15
Illinois	3	2	3	3	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	15
Rhode Island	3	3	1	0	3	1	0	2	1	0	0	14
Nevada	3	3	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	13
Oklahoma	3	1	3	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	13
Iowa	3	1	1	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	2	13
California Liquid*	2	3	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Louisiana	3	3	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
North Carolina	3	3	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
Utah	3	3	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	12
Michigan	3	1	2	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	12
Massachusetts	3	1	1	2	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	12
Missouri	3	0	1	1	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	12
Alabama	2	3	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	11
Vermont	2	2	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	11
New York	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	11
Tennessee	3	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Pennsylvania	3	3	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	10
Idaho	3	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	10
Virginia	3	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	10
California Gas*	2	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	10
Ohio	2	0	0	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	10
Georgia	3	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	9
Montana	3	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	9
North Dakota	2	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
New Mexico	2	3	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	9
Oregon	1	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
DC	0	3	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	9
Florida	0	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	8
Kansas	3	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
Wyoming	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	7
Maryland	0	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	7
Alaska	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
Delaware	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
New Jersey	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Hawaii	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

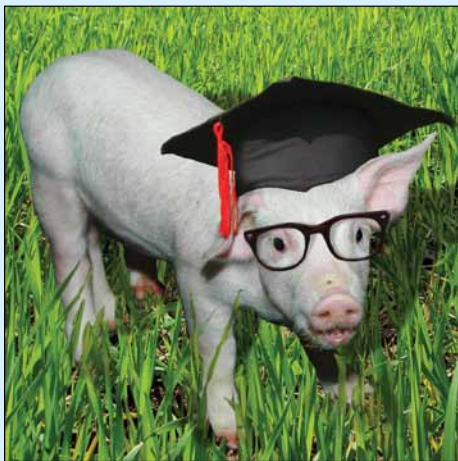
* California is the only state that has different agencies for natural gas and liquid pipelines

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The Smart Pig

smartpig@pstrust.org

In pipeline parlance, a smart pig is a high-tech device designed to root around inside pipelines. These intelligent little beasts inspect every square inch of the line, calling attention to any needed repairs.

I try to do the same thing for our readers. Send me a question and I'll root through the labyrinth of modern pipeline prevarications to get you the best answer piggily possible: the straight scoop, as we say back in the sty.

Editor's Note: The views and opinions expressed by this pig do not necessarily reflect those of the Pipeline Safety Trust or any human being.

For ten years, I've been answering your questions. [And see the exciting accompanying news that a new grant will allow me to answer even more of them in my blog.] That's a long time for a pig – about half a lifetime, actually – and it's prompted me to reflect on the past. I decided to root through my archives to see if any of the old questions still had life in them, and whoa! did I get a surprise! There was not one of those questions that still did not ring true today.

Here's a smattering of them:

"Please tell me what's being done to protect us from aging pipeline infrastructure." (Fred, Illinois, 2007)

Still working on it, Fred. There are a lot of really, really old natural gas distribution lines being replaced somewhat more quickly than in the past, but there are tens of thousands of miles of aging transmission lines in the ground. In fact more than half of all transmission lines, both gas and liquid, were installed before 1970. While age alone does not determine the integrity of a pipeline, it is certainly a factor that needs close attention. And, as the PG&E tragedy showed us, a big problem with old lines is that operators haven't always been careful about maintaining their records and integrating them into their safety programs. New rules that might require more testing on lines without good records have been in the works for years, but there is no indication what those requirements might be or when they might go into effect.

What are the regulations for minimum distance from a house the pipeline can be built? and what is a safe distance? (Howard, Idaho, 2005)

Well, Howard, there are still very few places in the country where there are any restrictions on how close to a house a new pipeline can be built. But there are a few, and an increasing number of local governments are considering measures to protect their communities from the risks presented by the routing of new pipelines through already developed areas. Since 2005 a great deal of progress has been made in coming to some important agreements about how to reduce the risks to existing pipelines by changing land uses around them. The final report of the Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA) was issued in 2010 and provides an important starting point for communities seeking to reduce risks, but PIPA needs to be fully implemented and we need to face the issues presented by the tsunami of new pipeline proposals.

"How are we supposed to avoid future pipeline disasters if no one's ever allowed to know anything about how they were built and recent inspection results?" (Marc, Arizona, 2005)

There have been some improvements in transparency on the part of PHMSA, the state regulators and some operators. You can now find out if there are pipelines (at least regulated ones) in your neighborhood. You can find out about incidents. But there's still a lot you can't find out, like whether a pipe has been inspected lately and what the operator found or how quickly they repaired problems. Like how high the pressure is in that gas pipeline in the school playground. Like whether that operator of a liquid line has the capacity to respond adequately to a rupture in an environmentally sensitive place; or even whether they have accurately identified that environmentally sensitive place! I wish I could say those concerns will be resolved soon. Changes are incremental, and slow. The National Transportation Safety Board has concluded (more than once!) that educating communities about the pipelines in their midst would save lives. We agree, and work hard to keep those incremental changes coming.

Smart Pig

MORE SMART PIG!

The Smart Pig has graced the pages of our newsletters for ten years, addressing all kinds of pipeline safety questions. Our new TAG award gives Smartie more air time by introducing the 'Smart Pig Blog'! While Smartie is busy rooting around for issues and will most certainly find some juicy ones to write about, there is more satisfaction in addressing questions from YOU! So send them in - what pipeline safety questions do you have?



<http://smartpig.pstrust.org>

PHMSA Technical Assistance Grant Awards

Around the Country...

PHMSA has announced thirtyone recipients that have received notice of successful technical assistance grant (TAG) awards. These include communities expanding their leak detection and GIS capacity, training emergency response personnel, performing technical analysis, and building awareness with the public and various other stakeholders about pipeline safety issues. We profile a few of the awards here:

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) – based in Pittsfield, MA, the BRPC will partner with four other regional planning commissions and councils of government to provide outreach, education, and training to communities in their regions, and to conduct their own environmental and technical reviews of proposed pipeline projects.

Alamo Improvement Association (AIA) – this California community group will be providing education to the public and first responders about pipeline safety issues, increasing the local knowledge and capacity to respond in the event of an emergency. Both the National Association of State Fire Marshalls, and the Pipeline Safety Trust will be helping AIA provide this outreach to the community.

Chester County Association of Township Office (CCATO) – townships within Chester County, Pennsylvania will be working together through CCATO to develop a guide for their municipalities focused on communication management procedures to help communications improve between municipalities, the public, and pipeline operators. They will also feature model ordinances focused on pipeline safety and land use planning.

Tomkins County, New York, will look at pipelines prone to flood damage in their jurisdiction, and complete an inventory and analysis of these lines.

PHMSA posts information about the award recipients here: <http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/tag/>

Trust TAG award...

Last year's TAG award allowed us to update our Landowner's Guide to Pipelines and publish a new Local Government Guide to Pipelines – both of which are available for free download on our website (<http://www.pstrust.org>). We're happy to send hard copies out upon request. See the accompanying article on the back page of this newsletter detailing the new Local Government Guide.

The Trust has recently received notice of a new TAG award that will allow us to:

- Create and maintain the Smart Pig Blog, where questions from folks around the country will be addressed;
- Expand our ability to provide customized technical assistance to communities; and
- Develop a national list of independent experts through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to find engineers and other technical folks who are interested in helping communities investigate various pipeline safety issues they may encounter. ■

MORE BRIEFING PAPERS!

Three years ago, we produced a series of briefing papers on pipeline safety issues for our New Voices project. The briefing papers introduce the reader to pipelines, the regulatory structure and to a variety of increasingly complex pipeline safety issues. They remain a frequently-referred-to source of information for members of the public new to pipelines. The briefing papers can be found here: <http://pstrust.org/b-papers>. Our new TAG grant will allow us to produce additional briefing papers for use by individuals and communities facing pipeline safety issues.

Send us your ideas for what subjects we should cover. Possible ideas:

- Eminent domain - how it relates to pipeline safety in the long term;
- Opportunities for improvements in pipeline safety at the state level;
- Integrity management: does it help? Why so few miles of pipe are covered? What is integrity verification?

Pipeline Experts

We will be creating a list of qualified experts on a variety of pipeline-related topics to provide to individuals and communities looking for engineering or other technical assistance on pipeline safety issues. Part of our efforts to create this list will entail issuing a Request for Qualifications for professionals to submit their qualifications to us so we can make their availability known to communities who need them.

Are you an expert in pipeline engineering? Construction? Metallurgy? Spill response? Air quality? Health effects of chemicals found in hazardous liquids transported by pipeline? Can you offer an independent voice through consulting work to communities investigating pipeline issues? **WE NEED YOU!** Please let us know so we can include you in the list we're developing of independent experts.



PHMSA Voices Concerns With Pipeline Reversals, Conversions, and Changes in Products

Over the past ten years due to changes in the technologies available many new “shale plays” have been coming on line producing huge quantities of new sources of oil and natural gas (see map on page 1). Many of these new production areas are in places not previously served by pipelines built to carry these products. This has led to what FERC recently referred to as a “tsunami of new pipelines” being proposed and built, and a huge increase in the amount of oil being transported by rail. It also has caused many pipeline companies to look at existing pipeline infrastructure with an eye toward converting it to carry other products, or changing the direction that products will flow through some pipelines.

The public has raised concerns with all of these practices for a couple of years now, and in September PHMSA issued an advisory bulletin “to alert operators of hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines of the potential significant impact flow reversals, product changes and conversion to service may have on the integrity of a pipeline.”

The advisory bulletin went on to say “Failures on natural gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipelines have occurred after these operational changes. Two recent pipeline failures occurred on hazardous liquid pipelines where the flow had been reversed. The Tesoro High Plains Pipeline rupture was discovered on September 29, 2013, after leaking an estimated 20,000 barrels of crude oil in a North Dakota field. The location of pressure and flow monitoring equipment had not been changed to account for the reversed flow. The Pegasus Pipeline failed on March 29, 2013, releasing about 5,000

barrels of crude oil into a neighborhood in Faulkner County, Arkansas. The pipeline flow had been reversed in 2006.”

The bulletin reminded pipeline operators of their obligations under current regulations and went one step further to suggest “it may not be advisable to perform flow reversals, product changes or conversion to service under the following conditions:

- Grandfathered pipelines that operate without a Part 192, Subpart J pressure test or where sufficient historical test or material strength records are not available.
- LF-ERW pipe, lap welded, unknown seam types and with seam factors less than 1.0 as defined in §§ 192.113 and 195.106.
- Pipelines that have had a history of failures and leaks most especially those due to stress corrosion cracking, internal/external corrosion, selective seam corrosion or manufacturing defects.
- Pipelines that operate above Part 192 design factors (above 72% SMYS).
- Product change from unrefined products to highly volatile liquids.”

We appreciate PHMSA making these safety suggestions in writing so the pipeline industry is on notice that such pipelines potentially have problems and need to be treated carefully. Some in the industry on the other hand have reacted negatively, stating that such advice amounts to trying to regulate without going through the rule making process. ■

Changes Proposed to the National Pipeline Mapping System

The Trust was excited to see the PHMSA announcement about changes to the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) through an Information Collection Notice (OMB Control No. 2137-0596) in late July that is to result in additional data and increased accuracy for the mapping system. While we’re glad of the existence of NPMS, we have been frustrated by it and agree that it is sorely in need of improvement. The current NPMS standards were written in 1998, and the Geographic Information System (GIS) world is in a completely different place now than it was 15 years ago.

PHMSA lists the motivation behind this action, and we agree and hope that the changes will indeed:

- Aid the industry and all levels of government, from Federal to municipal, in promoting public awareness of hazardous liquid and gas pipelines and in improving emergency responder outreach.
- Permit more powerful and accurate tabular and geospatial analysis, which will strengthen PHMSA’s ability to evaluate existing and proposed regulations as well as operator programs and/or procedures.
- Strengthen the effectiveness of PHMSA’s risk rankings and evaluations, which are used as a factor in determining pipeline inspection priority and frequency.
- Allow for more effective assistance to emergency

responders by providing them with a more reliable, complete dataset of pipelines and facilities.

- Provide better support to PHMSA’s inspectors by providing more accurate pipeline locations and additional pipeline-related geospatial data that can be linked to tabular data in PHMSA’s inspection database.

And we would add our own list as well:

- Provide the public with information about the pipelines nearby, including size, pressure, commodity, and other attributes such as when they were last tested and inspected, and when the next inspection is due.
- Provide the public with other geographic location information relating to the pipelines such as their location within high consequence areas and specific class locations, as well as information about the topography, populations centers and the like.
- Allow the public to view pipelines across county lines in order to see a regional, state and national views of the infrastructure. Viewing lines only one-county-at-a-time doesn’t make any sense, as most of us live, work, and play across county lines.
- Include more pipelines than only oil and gas transmission lines and off-shore gas gathering lines; all gathering lines should be included.

Continued on next page

Proposed Mapping System *(Continued from previous page)*

Much of this information can be found in other public places, such as elsewhere through PHMSA and through Energy Information Agency filings and pipeline operator websites, but it's painstakingly difficult for busy folks to weed through and compile. Citizens, landowners, and local governments can be some of the best allies in maintaining safe pipeline infrastructure, but they need to be able to access information about what is going on with the pipelines around them.

We're concerned that the new data and accuracy

information will be collected only to be held by PHMSA and not accessible to other folks like local government planners and representatives. As we've said for more than ten years, transparency and information sharing are crucial to increasing the safety of pipelines in this country. Doing this through NPMS makes sense, and we hope PHMSA's proposal helps the public access this information.

Anyone can comment on these proposed changes by going to www.regulations.gov, and searching for docket PHMSA-2014-0092. ■

The Trust in the News

Never a week goes by at the Trust without at least one contact – and usually many more – from a reporter working on a pipeline-related story. Part of fulfilling our mission to provide accurate, independent information about pipelines finds us educating reporters about pipeline issues and assisting them in finding the specific information about a pipeline, a type or age of pipeline, or a pipeline proposal that will make their stories better. In that process, we very often provide information on background, but we often find ourselves included in the stories as one of the only public interest sources of information about pipeline safety.

Here are just a few of our efforts over the past two months:

John Kelly of the USA Today Network unveiled a collaborative investigative report on aging gas pipeline infrastructure across the country, including an on-camera interview of Trust staff. Newspaper and television reports included pieces from the national story, along with local coverage.

"The chance of a pipeline failing in any one place is pretty small, but if you live in one of those older East Coast cities with hundreds of miles of cast-iron pipe, that's just a failure waiting to happen," said Carl Weimer, the executive director of the Pipeline Safety Trust, a public-interest group advocating for more aggressive monitoring of the older pipe until it can be replaced."

The USA Today investigation can be found here: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/09/23/gas-pipes-cast-iron-deaths-explosions-investigation/15783697/>

Mary Douglas of the Berkshire Edge recently reported on the New England State Committee on Electricity, and its relationship to natural gas pipelines and FERC.



Gov. Paul LePage of Maine.

"In the words of a group promoting pipeline safety, called Pipeline Safety Trust, 'in a quick and not exhaustive check, we were unable to find a single FERC denial of an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for an interstate gas transmission line. The message is: FERC rarely denies an application.'"

Find Anatomy of a Pipeline Decision: A scheme of



Workers lower a gas pipeline into a box three days after a natural-gas pipeline exploded into a deadly fireball in San Bruno, Calif. (Photo: 2010 photo by Tony Avelar, AP)

'dubious' legality here: <http://theberkshireedge.com/anatomy-pipeline-decision-scheme-dubious-legality/>

Mark Brush of Michigan Public Radio reported in October about the difficulty getting information on the condition of the oil pipeline in the Straits of Mackinac.

"Carl Weimer is with the National Pipeline Safety Trust, a pipeline watchdog group. I asked him what seems like the obvious question about this pipeline: 'How can a 60-year-old line be in excellent condition?' 'We've seen older pipelines that have been operated and maintained well that look almost like new pipelines,' he said. '... and on the other hand we've seen new pipelines that look like they're 80-years-old, or are in bad shape. So it really depends on how the company has been operating and maintaining it. And that's a really hard thing to find out.'"

The Michigan story can be found here: <http://interlochenpublicradio.org/post/question-about-condition-straits-mackinac-pipeline-has-complicated-answer-part-1>



Tom Prew, a region engineer for Enbridge, on the deck of the work barge on the Straits of Mackinac. Brackets for the pipeline sit on the deck. (Mark Brush Michigan Radio)

Katie Valentine, a reporter for ClimateProgress,



Proposed route of Northeast Energy Direct. (Kinder Morgan)

reported on the debates going on in New England about efforts to increase natural gas pipeline capacity.

"Explosions are also a major concern. According to a briefing paper from the Pipeline Safety Trust, natural gas pipelines have fewer significant onshore incidents, such as major

spills, than pipelines carrying hazardous liquids such as crude oil and jet fuel; however, they have more serious incidents — events that result in death or hospitalization — than other pipelines. 'They've got less [accidents], but when they blow, they really blow,' Carl Weimer, executive director of the Pipeline Safety Trust, said. 'They have huge potential for wide-ranging explosions.'"

Read the story here: <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/09/30/3567593/northeast-gas-pipeline-opposition/> ■

Trust Releases Local Government Guide to Pipelines

The Trust has recently published a new Local Government Guide to Pipelines. This Guide provides an overview of land use and pipeline safety issues, including background information, and specifics about new development near pipelines, new pipelines proposed in communities, and emergency response and spill prevention and response planning. The Guide is available at no cost, and can be downloaded through the PST website: <http://pstrust.org/2014lgg>, or distributed in hard copy by request.

About four years ago on the heels of recently released land use and pipeline recommendations by the U.S. DOT - Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's "Pipeline and Informed Planning Alliance" (PIPA - www.pipa-info.com), the Trust coordinated interviews, a survey, and focus groups with planners to determine how best to proceed with implementing the recommendations. Outcomes of that process underscored:

- the need for local champions and local trusted messengers for pipeline safety
- concerns regarding property owners / property rights
- the desire to address both new pipelines and new development together
- need for an 'in' with local planning staff
- concerns about the cost of implementing and sustaining practices

The Trust has continued to be involved with PIPA and other efforts to incorporate pipeline issues with land use planning and ways state and local governments can help reduce the risks to their communities from pipelines in their midst. We have posted example ordinances on our website and partnered with communities to offer technical assistance. The Local Government Guide to Pipelines is another tool for communities that we hope will be useful. 